

Minutes of ALACBU Board Meeting of February 20, 2016

In attendance: Unit 553 (Adam Barron), Unit 556 (Ruth Baker, Roy Ladd), Unit 557 (Cliff Goodrich, Betty Jackson, Diane Sachs), Unit 559 (John Jones), Unit 562 (Candy Scott, Barbara Nusbaum, Stephanie Young, Roger Clough), Unit 564 (Marcie Evans). President Mike Marcucci, Treasurer Joe Viola, Secretary Robert Shore, District Director Kevin Lane, Board of Governors Representative Ellen Kent, Tournament Chair Stan Holzberg Chair of Education Programs and Publicity Gerri Soffa Carlson, Appellate Chair Becky Clough. Guests: Bill Schreiber, Sharon Biederman, Eliis Feigenbaum, Marjorie Michelin, ACBL President Ken Monzingo.

The meeting was called to order by President Mike Marcucci. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved. Once a roster is available, the Secretary will endeavor to include a list of Units represented at each meeting.

President Marcucci announced some appointments. Betty Jackson is now the District coordinator for STACs. Marjorie Michelin is willing to assume responsibility for speakers at regionals. Marcus Evans is the District coordinator for North American Pairs. Liang Fan will put his artistic and computer skills to work preparing flyers for our tournaments. Becky Clough has been appointed as the Appellate Chair.

In addition, Penny Barbieri has stepped down as District Vice President. President Marcucci proposed that Bill Schreiber fill the vacancy. A motion to that effect was made and seconded, and approved by the Board.

Vacancies remain for the positions of Finance Chair and tournament photographer. Although Tom Lill is currently taking pictures of winners, he would appreciate a successor taking over.

ACBL President Ken Monzingo made impromptu remarks.

Kevin Lane gave the District Director's report. He attended a three-day meeting at Horn Lake. The \$2 million expenditure on a new version of ACBLScore has been completely written off. ACBL's understanding is that ACBL owns the code. This year is the District's turn to receive a charity grant. Kevin attended the Denver meeting of the Board of Directors. ACBL is focused on its financial condition. Prices at Nationals have been increased. Sanction fees for clubs and for tournaments have been increased by approximately 5%. Kevin will work toward inculcating a culture of long-term planning on the Board.

Ellen Kent gave the Board of Governors report. Ellen reported on three issues. Work is being done on convention charts, and on standardizing the presentation of convention cards to achieve consistency with other national and international bridge organizations. Screen charges for national events that use screens have been revoked. Entry fee for national team events will henceforth be assessed on a per-person basis rather than on a per-team basis.

Stan Holzberg reported that efforts are continuing to spread the scheduling of Sectional tournaments held by our Units more evenly throughout the calendar year. The concern is that when we clump local tournaments in close temporal proximity to one another, they compete for sporadic and occasional players. The

hope is that by spreading tournaments more effectively, we will collectively attract more business from these players.

Work continues on assembling job descriptions for District Board members. No report concerning potential revisions to District Bylaws. Minutes and the bylaws can be placed on the District Web site, now administered by Nancy Heck. We continue our search for the physical manifestation of old District trophies.

President Marcucci raised issues concerning STACs. STACs are much more lucrative for the ACBL than are other tournaments. Mike is collecting data, though, in an effort to ascertain whether STACs have an adverse impact on Units. This is an issue that Kevin will bring with him to the Board of Directors for further investigation. In addition, District 23 earns approximately \$1600 in revenue per tournament for its own STACs. (Although we also participate in the Great Western STAC, we are not the sponsoring organization and therefore do not receive any of its revenue.) Mike floated the issue of whether this revenue should be returned to the Units or used for our Education Fund. The sense of the Board was that the District's financial condition mandated retaining the revenue.

Joe Viola gave the Treasurer's report. He distributed the most recently available financials. We lost approximately \$17,000 on our 2015 regional tournaments, the bulk of which was penalties assessed for failing to achieve specified room counts. Bills remain outstanding for *Southern California Bridge News*.

Peter Benjamin gave the Tournament Chair's report. Attendance to this point is down year-over-year from 916 tables to 830 tables. We believe we have achieved the required room count and expect the tournament to break even financially. We need to move afternoon sessions to 1:15 p.m. Issues have been reported regarding parking and food service. The LAX Sheraton is interested in hosting additional regionals in October and next February. Even though the Long Beach Convention Center and Hilton are available for a potential New Year's Eve tournament (and relatively nearby competition in the form of the Reno Regional no longer exists), we are not inclined to hold a New Year's Eve tournament. Cards have been replaced for team games. Replacing them for pairs games requires amortization. We anticipate a proposal to compete with our current vendor.

Tom Lill requests that biographical material for memorial games be provided to him so that he can include in the *Daily Bulletin*, thereby allowing attendees to know why the game is named for the honoree.

Gerri Soffa Carlson reports that publicity for the Long Beach tournament is good. We have a one-third page ad in the *Bulletin*, ads on BBO, two e-mail blasts, and ads in the *Western Conference Forum*. We are not sure that we can afford to hold an October tournament and therefore have not begun advertising it.

The Scholarship Committee reports that the Scholarship Fund is down to \$8648.12 from \$11,661.24. Ten scholarships have been awarded, including three repeats. New awards are expected to be made in July or August.

Bob Shore reported for the Discipline Committee. No disciplinary actions have occurred since the last meeting. However, in the past, the Disciplinary Committee has dealt with issues where either the charging party or the charged party (or both) has been a member of a Unit Board. Under those circumstances, it

is often the case that the matter should be handled at the District level rather than the Unit level, to avoid an appearance of bias or favoritism. The Code of Disciplinary Regulations authorizes District Disciplinary Committees, by a vote of the District Board, to assume jurisdiction over cases arising from a Unit. Because District Board meetings are infrequent, Bob proposed that the District exercise that authority in a case where either the complainant or the charged party was a member of a Unit Board at the request of either the complainant or the charged party. A motion to that effect was made, seconded, and approved.

Mike Marcucci gave the Recorder's report on behalf of Gene White. Five player memos have been received, and two forwarded for further action.

John Jones gave the Education/Youth report. Nolan Chang deserves plaudits for his victory, as do Lucy Zhang and Sophia Chang for their second-place finish. He is hoping to resume holding the District's annual youth game.

Marcus Evans reported on North American Pairs. He would like to advertise the stipends available from ACBL and (sometimes) the District to attend the National Finals.

Janet Logan reported on Grand National Teams. Local clubs can (and are encouraged to) schedule fundraising games that award extra points in exchange for extra card fees. The additional revenues go to grass roots events; namely Grand National Teams.

The Board discussed possible uses for the \$30,000 available to the District this year from the ACBL Charity Foundation. The ACBL places final authority for the distribution decision with the District Director. The Charity Foundation places some constraints on the awards. Although the amount of the distribution is not fixed in stone at \$5000 (the amount historically given to recipients by the District), the number of grants available to each District is limited. Kevin encourages Units to submit combined proposals.

There was a discussion of issuing awards to District Mini McKenney and Helen Shanbrom Ace of Clubs winners. As of this year, certificates are available to winners via the MyACBL portal on the ACBL Web site.

Penny Barbieri is working on a current District roster, which should be forthcoming soon.

Candy Scott reminds the Board that e-mail blasts are available via the ACBL, and can be sent to all members within a 500-mile radius of the tournament.